

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
September 11, 2002

Diana Webb (Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division, LANL) applauded the work that had been done by members of the IWMT and the East Jemez Resource Council (EJRC) during the recently passed fire season. Long periods of extreme fire danger have been followed by drought stress and beetle mortality in trees of the Los Alamos region. This culminated in a brief "second fire season".

Robbie Stibbard (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that hand crews are working on County lands to remove slash in previously thinned areas and have been cutting trees that are immediately adjacent to powerlines.

Dean Clark (Fire Management Officer, Bandelier National Monument) announced that NEPA compliance for thinning along Highway 4 is nearly complete. The thinning will include the removal of trees for a distance of approximately 300 feet from each side of the highway. This thinning will start at the boundary between Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve and continue to the intersection between Highway 4 and Highway 501.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has sampled 50 plots for analyses of fire hazards during the current year. This includes thinned and unthinned plots at S-Site and an unthinned plot along Highway 501 near the Wellness Center.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, September 25, at TA-21, Building 210 in the Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.